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Remarks

Claims 1-11 and 15-24 were pending in the application. Claims 1-6, 9-11, 15-18, and 21-24 were rejected. Claims 7, 8, 19, and 20 were merely objected to and no claims were allowed. By the foregoing amendment, no claims are canceled, no claims are amended, and claim 25 is added. No new matter is presented.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant appreciates the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 7, 8, 19, and 20.

Claims Rejections-35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 1-5 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ono et al. (US6273612) in view of Okamoto et al. (US6089755). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Ono et al. discloses a crank shaft or crank pin bearing (col. 1, lines 7-8) having a journal with two segments or halves 9 and 10 (col. 5, line 5). A segment has, in one embodiment, a circumferentially varying lubricant concentration (col. 8, line 59-col. 9, line 13). No citations have been provided for asserted teachings of Ono et al. contrary to 35 U.S.C. 132(a).

Okamoto et al. discloses use of a longitudinally-varying bearing material thickness to provide an elastic deformation profile that addresses load fluctuations in a crankshaft bearing. Okamoto et al. does not suggest modifications to address operation after a lubricant loss in a geared turbofan transmission.

There is no suggestion that the proposed modification would not defeat the load carrying function of Okamoto et al.

Even if combined, there is still no suggestion for the concentration of claim 3. There is no suggestion that the split segments of the two references in the crank field would yield optimization in the claimed range. By arguing claim 3, Applicant does not acquiesce in the rejection of other claims. It is practical to further argue the other claims only when a proper examination has been made in compliance with 35 U.S.C. 132(a). For example, if specific text passages are cited for various propositions, these can be specifically reviewed and addressed.

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Claims 6 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ono et al. in view of Okamoto et al. and further in view of Andler et al. (US6139191) Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Andler et al. was cited for the lead/copper combination. Andler et al. discloses a half bearing with a circumferentially-varying lubricant concentration. Andler et al. et al. does not suggest modifications to address operation after a lubricant loss in a geared turbofan transmission. There is no suggestion, other than hindsight reconstruction, to make changes from Andler et al. to Ono et al. or Okamoto et al. or their combination.

The enclosed declaration of Michael C. McCune further attests to the nonobviousness of the claimed invention and impropriety of the proposed combinations.

Claims 9, 15-18, and 21-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ono et al. in view of Okamoto et al. and further in view of McCreary (US4719818). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

McCreary was cited as disclosing "a bushing and journal pin assembly for a geared turbofan transmission..." Office action, page 3, last paragraph. However, McCreary relates to a turbocharger. However, the admitted prior art cited in the present application may serve the purposes for which McCreary is cited. Nevertheless, there is no suggestion for the proposed combination. It was asserted as obvious "to utilize the bushing assembly of Ono in other known devices including that of a turbofan transmission, because McCreary discloses the use of a bushing obtained by plating" *Id.* This is conclusory, unsupported, and simply wrong. Nothing in any of the asserted combinations is supported by a proper motivation other than hindsight. On page 4, the Office action asserted "The citation for the teachings of Ono et al. is Ono et al. It is clear from Ono that all of the teachings asserted in the rejection are found in Ono." These assertions without any identification of particular specification passages, drawing elements and the like, are insufficient to provide Applicant the opportunity to respond and are not in compliance with 35 U.S.C. 132(a). Supporting of cranks, gears, and turbines all have distinct problems and considerations. For example, there is no suggestion to adopt the split automotive crank bearing construction of Okamoto et al. in the present geared turbofan engine or in the

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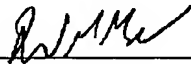
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turbocharger of McCreary. Given the differences, something more than a conclusory statement is required.

Claim 25 is supported by claim 10 and paragraph 0002. As noted above. The various references relating to load carrying do not suggest lubricant loss issues in a geared turbofan transmission. Even if the combinations were attempted, there is no suggestion that they be implemented so as to provide the desired lubricant loss performance.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 1-11 and 15-25 are in condition for allowance. Please charge any fees or deficiency or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account of record.

Respectfully submitted,


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Enclosure: Declaration under Rule 132

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted this 26th day of October, 2006 to the USPTO, at Fax No. 571-273-8300.


Antoinette Sullo